

Resiliency and Sustainability Committee

In 2021 the State introduced Maine's four-year Climate Action Plan that includes programs and funding to towns in order for towns to help meet the State goal to decrease greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 and 80% by 2050 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2045.

The Climate Resilience Implementation Task Force (CRITF) proposes expanding its mission to support the Town and its citizens to reach carbon neutrality, mitigate the effects of sea level rise on built infrastructure and natural resources, and promote community wide resilience and economic security.

To do this it proposes that the CRITF be dissolved and replaced with a Resiliency and Sustainability standing committee.

The Resiliency and Sustainability Committee's mission will be to support the Town in reaching carbon neutrality, mitigating the effects of sea level rise on built infrastructure and natural resources, through community planning and adaptation. Also, it will support community efforts that help citizens achieve resilience and economic security while keeping the community engaged through outreach.

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As Maine reduces greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change, we must also respond to climate impacts occurring now and expected soon. There is State support for communities to be proactive about understanding, planning, and acting to reduce their risk from climate change.

The Resiliency and Sustainability Committee will do this by:

- Advising and recommending ways for the Town to reduce energy consumption and promote renewable energy.
- Continuing to assess the degree of exposure from 1½ to 2 feet¹ of rising tides and storm surge through 2050 on the Town's critical infrastructure, through assessment and data collection.
- Emphasizing resilience on future land development through Land Use Planning.
- Monitoring the Town's natural and marine resources and fisheries through surveys and data collection.
- Supporting community efforts that promote resilience and economic security of our aging and working community.

Organization:

The Resiliency and Sustainability Committee will carry out its mission and goals by working in subgroups that are aligned with their town committee and/or community organization.

¹ Maine Won't Wait sea-level rise projection

The committee will be comprised of nine (9) members and two (2) non-voting associate members made up of representatives from Town committees and the Town's fishing and older adult communities as follows:

1. Town Lands
2. Harbor and Waterfront
3. Marine Resources
4. Energy and Technology
5. Planning Board
6. Conservation Commission
7. Representative of the older adult community
8. Representative of the commercial fishing industry.
9. Community Engagement representative

(2) Associate members

The Committee will meet at least every two months and report to the Bd of Selectmen annually or as needed to share progress and recommend actions, financial needs, and policies. Terms will be for 3 years for members and associate members

Members shall initially be appointed for terms of one, 2 and 3 years, such that the terms of approximately 1/3 of the members will expire each year. Their successors shall be appointed for terms of 3 years each. Members shall serve until the appointment of their successors.

The committee recommends that two (2) associate members be appointed to assist as the committee requires. Associate members are nonvoting members.

Staff liaisons from Emergency Management, Harbor/Marine Resources, and Planning to provide guidance.